

MORNING PAPERS : WEDNESDAY, 21ST SEPTEMBER, 1949.
EVENING PAPERS : WEDNESDAY, 21ST SEPTEMBER, 1949.
BROADCASTING STATIONS : MIDNIGHT, TUESDAY, 20TH SEPTEMBER, 1949.

EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS - JULY, 1949.

Drop of 109,300 in July Employment Level

Due chiefly to the effect of the stoppage of work in coal mines which began toward the end of June and continued during July, the number of persons on payrolls or "in employment" at the end of July fell to 2,319,800 (exclusive of rural workers and females engaged in private domestic service). This was 109,300 lower than the corresponding figure for June, 1949 and 131,000 lower than that for May, 1949. Male employment fell by 84,600 from 1,771,600 in June to 1,687,000 in July, while female employment fell 24,700 from 657,500 to 632,800. The figures refer to numbers on pay rolls or "in employment" in the latter part of the month and not to numbers actually working on a specific date.

Fall in All States between May and July.

Numbers in employment showed a net fall in all States between the end of May and the end of July. In New South Wales, where the effect of the coal stoppage was most pronounced there was a fall of 22,300 in June and a further 89,000 in July. In Tasmania there was a fall of 1,400 during June, (due chiefly to an industrial dispute in the stevedoring industry) but no further fall in July. In the other four States employment rose slightly during June but fell by 20,300 during July.

Changes in Industrial Groups during July.

Male employment in Mining and Quarrying fell from 52,300 in May to 49,200 in June and to 33,000 in July. Male Employment in factories fell from 628,100 in May to 615,500 in June and to 559,200 in July. Female employment in factories declined from 213,000 to 207,700 to 188,700 over the same period. Decreases in total employment were recorded in all other industrial groups with the exception of property and finance and public authority activity where slight increases were recorded.

Fall in Factory Employment

During the month of July, 1949 total factory employment fell by 75,300 or 9 per cent. The fall occurred in all classes of factories with the exception of Light and Power Works where full staffs were retained to make the maximum use of available fuel. The decreases ranged from 37,571 (12 per cent.) in the manufacture of metals, machinery and vehicles to 494 (9 per cent.) in jewellery manufacture and watchmaking.

Rise in Government Employment.

Government employment in all forms rose by 300. There was a fall of 400 in the number of male employees and a rise of 700 in females. Commonwealth Government employees increased by 3,300 mainly through temporary employment of unemployed males on construction work, while State employees decreased by 3,000.

Definition

The terms "Employment", "Number Employed", "Employees" and "Wage Earners" herein are synonymous and relate to "wage and salary earners" on pay rolls or "in employment" in the latter part of each month as distinct from numbers of employees actually working on a specific date. They include persons employed part-time.

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